

Marijuana

What can it do
to my baby?



When you are pregnant and use marijuana, so does your baby.

Marijuana passes through the placenta into a baby's bloodstream. When babies are exposed to marijuana during pregnancy, they can test positive for the drug after they are born.

Early studies suggest that marijuana use during pregnancy can harm a growing baby.

- It may cause your baby to be born before his or her body and brain are ready. This could mean serious health problems at birth and throughout life.
- It could change how your baby's brain develops. These changes may cause life-long behavior problems like trouble paying attention or following rules.
- It might lower your child's IQ, cause problems with learning and memory, and make it harder for him or her to do well in school.

Make the safest choice for you and your baby. DON'T use marijuana when pregnant or breastfeeding.

Can I use marijuana if I am breastfeeding?

- NO, women who are breastfeeding should avoid using marijuana.
- Marijuana is found in the breast milk of nursing mothers who use the drug.
- Using marijuana can affect your ability to safely care for your baby.
- Talk to your baby's health care provider about the risks of marijuana use compared to the benefits of breastfeeding, so you can make the best decision for you and your baby.

Still have questions?

Talk to your health care provider. Even if you have been using marijuana during your pregnancy, stopping now will help lower the risks to your baby.

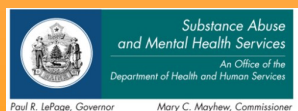
Do you need help quitting?

Maine substance abuse treatment providers give first priority to any pregnant woman seeking services. Reaching out for help is a sign of strength. For more information, call the Maine Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services at 207-287-8900 or 1-800-499-0027 or dial 2-1-1 from any phone in Maine or go to www.211maine.org.

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